

Emergence: A way forward Women Veterans Conference 2022



Kat Miller, Director





CENTER FOR WOMEN VETERANS

LOURDES TIGLAO
DIRECTOR

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

OVERVIEW



- Why is there a Center for Women Veterans?
- About CWV
 - Our Mandate, Mission, and Vision
- Veteran Population Dynamics
- VA's cultural transformation and recognition of Women Veterans
- CWV Engagements
- CWV Initiatives
- Deborah Sampson Act Highlights
- What can YOU do today?
- Q/A

THE INVISIBLE WOMAN



In a 2016 Service Women's Action Network survey, 74 percent of the respondents said that the general public did not recognize their service

This parking is
for
Veterans, lady.
Learn to read &
have some
respect.

CENTER FOR WOMEN VETERANS

PUBLIC LAW 103-446



MANDATE:

Advise on policies, programs, and laws related to women Veterans; **Disseminate** information; and **Support** the independent VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

MISSION:

- **Monitor and coordinate** VA's administration of Healthcare, Benefits, Services and Programs for Women Veterans.
- **Serve as an advocate for cultural transformation** (within VA and in the general public) in recognizing the service and contributions of women Veterans and women in the military.
- **Raise awareness of the responsibility** to treat women Veterans with dignity and respect.

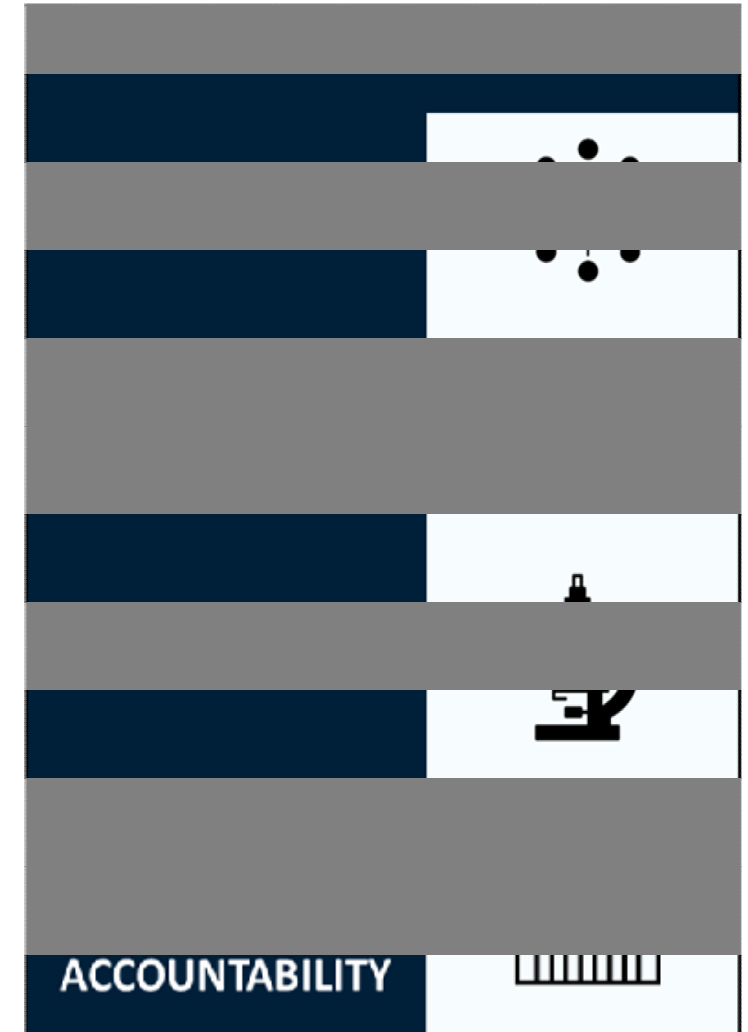
CENTER FOR WOMEN VETERANS

PUBLIC LAW 103-446 (CONT)



VISION:

- **Modernize the Center**
to become the portal for all things women Veterans
- **Extend its outreach**
to all women Veteran Champions, reaching women Veterans nationally and internationally
- **Ensure equity**
in access, eligibility, care, and service delivery



Veteran Population Dynamics



2018: 9.7% of Veteran population: women

- 19.6 million total Veterans
- 17.7 million male Veterans
- **1.9 million women Veterans**

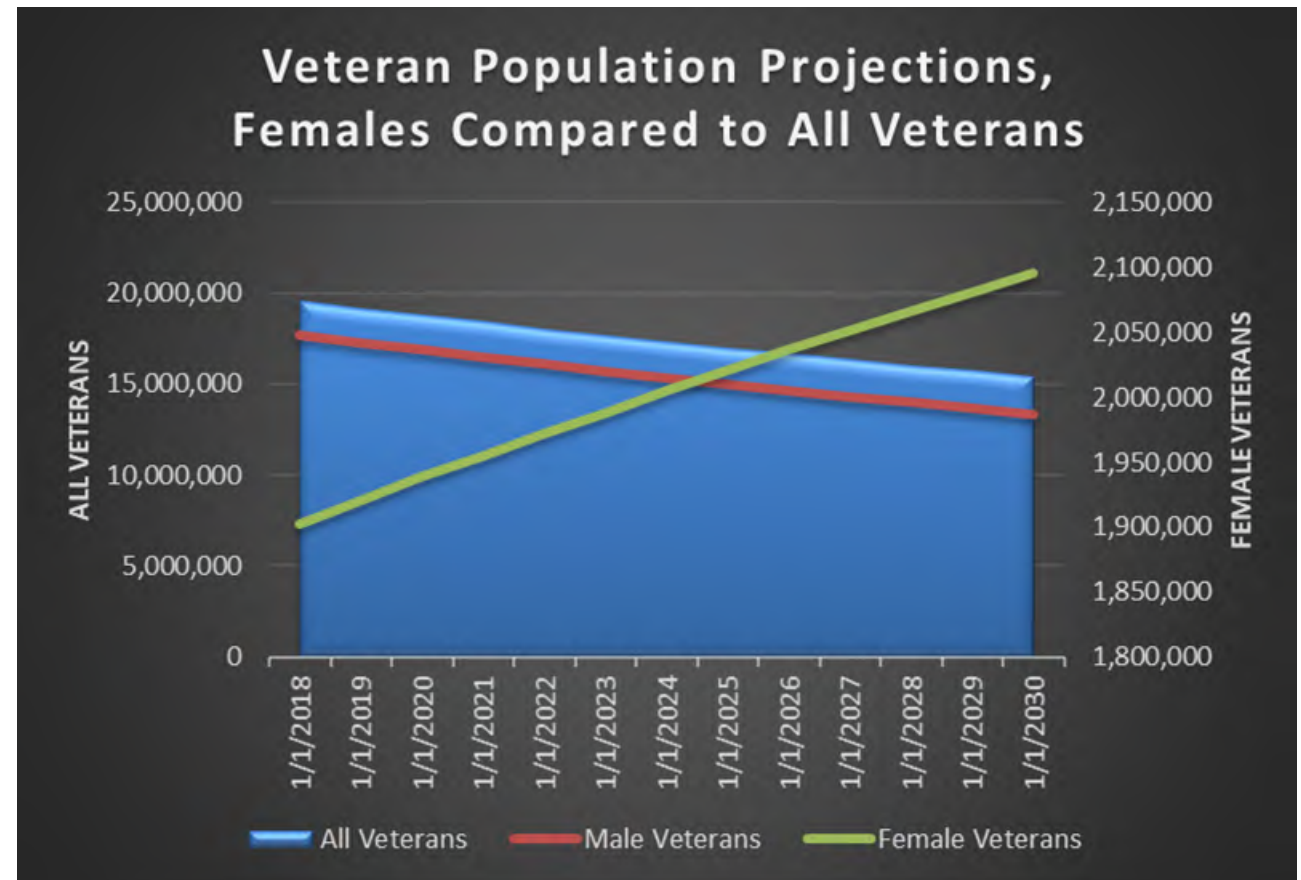
2030: 13.5% of Veteran population: women

- 15.5 million total Veterans
- 13.4 million male Veterans
- **2.1 million women Veterans**

Key Takeaway:

**While Women Veteran Population Increases,
Overall Veteran Population Decreases**

Center for Women Veterans



VA Cultural Transformation



VA Cultural Transformation



www.va.gov/womenvet

HOW WE ENGAGE: CONNECTING WITH WOMEN VETERANS



- **What we do**
 - Outreach: to inform women Veterans about their benefits, eligibility, and pertinent new or changes in legislation affecting their care
 - Advocate: Intercede on behalf of women Veterans encountering hurdles
 - Research: Engage and amplify importance of women Veteran representation in research, including social and medical research.
 - Webinars
 - Social Media Engagement and FB Live events
 - Website engagement
 - Email

HOW WE ENGAGE: WOMEN VETERANS IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES



- Round tables
 - American Indian / Alaska Native Roundtable
 - Caribbean Health System Round table
 - Guam and Philippines
- MOAs and Outreach / Engagement
 - Women Veterans Interactive
 - Minority Veterans of America
 - Library of Congress
- Internal Partnership and Collaborations
 - Partnership with Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) focusing on minority women Veterans
 - IDEA Sub Council
 - Collaboration with OPIA on AANHPI Veterans Journey Map
 - Pacific Region Working Group participation
- Center for Minority Veterans
A Close Collaboration & Partnership

HOW WE ENGAGE: WITH VA PARTNERS



Partner & Collaborate: With internal and external stakeholders

- Share/update partners on policies and programs relevant to Healthcare, Benefits, Services and Programs for Women Veterans
- Bilateral feedback on trends/insights from partners from the field
- Advisory capacity related to gender and racial/cultural appropriateness in areas of:
 - Policy
 - Health / Mental Health
 - Claims
 - Research

CENTER FOR WOMEN VETERANS: CURRENT INITIATIVES



1. Campaigns

- a. #BringWomenVeteransHome2VA
- b. I Am Not Invisible Campaign

2. Research:

- a. Women Veterans Survey: Root Causes for Disengagement
- b. NDAA Study on Women Veterans & Unemployment
- c. IPV Study (Intimate Partner Violence)

3. Annual Women Veterans Summit

4. Naming VA Spaces for after Women Veterans

5. Partnerships that include:

- a. Memorandums of Agreement
- b. Outreach & Engagement
- c. Policy/Program Initiatives

6. Engagement - Social Media

7. Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

8. Special Events

DEBORAH SAMPSON ACT HIGHLIGHTS



Title V of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 contains 28 provisions that improve Women Veterans' access to VA health care and benefits

Improvements for Women Veterans in VA

- ★ Ending harassment and sexual assault within VA
- ★ Enhancing Women Veteran reintegration and readjustment
- ★ Expanding reintegration and readjustment counseling retreats for Women Veterans and their family members
- ★ Increasing availability of prosthetics for Women Veterans
- ★ Bolstering Women Veterans counseling and legal services



Deborah Sampson

Deborah Sampson became a hero of the American Revolution after disguising herself as a man for over two years to serve her country in battle. When Sampson was shot during the war, she extracted the pistol ball herself. She was discovered when she became ill during an epidemic, was taken to a hospital, and lost consciousness.

While she received a military pension from the state of Massachusetts, it wasn't until four years after her death that Congress awarded her full military benefits - stating that the history of the Revolution "furnished no other similar example of female heroism, fidelity and courage."

Michals, Debra. "Deborah Sampson." National Women's History Museum. National Women's History Museum, 2015. April 2021.

DEBORAH SAMPSON ACT HIGHLIGHTS: 5101



Section 5101: Elevate central office prioritizing health for Women Veterans

Statutory Requirement

- Section 5101: Creates an Office of Women's Health within VHA headed by a Chief Officer overseeing women's health programs within VHA and ensure standards of care are created and outreach to women veterans is performed. (Deadline 4/5/2021)
- This section requires an annual report on models of care, women's health staffing, access to gender-specific services, accessibility, and activities carried out by the Office.

BLUF

- VA has established an Office of Women's Health, led by a Chief Officer with direct report to the Under Secretary of Health.
- VA has submitted an annual report on models of care, women's health staffing, access to gender-specific services, accessibility, and activities carried out by the Office to GOAL for review.

DEBORAH SAMPSON ACT HIGHLIGHTS: 5104



Section 5104: Provision of Reintegration & Readjustment Services to Veterans & Family Members in Group Retreat Settings

Statutory Requirement

- Section 5104 requires VA to create a retreat program for eligible Veterans and family members to augment the readjustment counseling they are receiving.

BLUF

- VA will expand and make permanent reintegration and readjustment services offered to women Veterans by providing counseling services individually or in a group retreat setting. Veterans also have the option of receiving counseling with family members or in group retreat settings where all the participants are women.

DEBORAH SAMPSON ACT HIGHLIGHTS: 5105



Section 5105: Provision of Legal Services for Women Veterans

Statutory Requirement

- Section 5105 requires VA to enter into one or more agreements with external entities to provide certain types of legal services to women Veterans. These legal services must address legal needs identified in VA's Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups (CHALENG) survey of homeless Veterans.

BLUF

- VA will comply with section 5105 through the legal services grant program required by section 4202 to address the unmet needs for legal services among homeless women Veterans.

DEBORAH SAMPSON ACT HIGHLIGHTS: 5108



Section 5108: Availability of Prosthetics for Women Veterans

Statutory Requirement

- Section 5108 requires VA to ensure that women Veterans are able to access clinically appropriate prosthetic appliances through each VAMC and to report by January 2022 on the (1) availability from VA of prosthetics made for women Veterans, including variability across facilities.

BLUF

- VA continues to collaborate with VHA Prosthetic & Sensory Aids Service, Amputation System of Care, Clinical Orthotic & Prosthetic Service, and the 3D Printing Advisory Committee to assess the availability of prosthetics made for women Veterans.

DEBORAH SAMPSON ACT HIGHLIGHTS:

5111



Section 5111: Sense of Congress on Reservists' Access to Military Sexual Trauma (MST)-Related Care

Statutory Requirement

- None; section 5111 articulates the sense of Congress that members of reserve components of the Armed Forces should be able to access all VA health care facilities, not just Vet Centers, to receive treatment related to MST.

BLUF

- VA and the Department of Defense (DoD) are firmly committed to ensuring all Veterans and Service members have access to the care they need to recover from MST.

DEBORAH SAMPSON ACT HIGHLIGHTS: 5206



5206: Staffing Improvement Plan for VA Peer Specialists Who Are Women

Statutory Requirement

- Section 5206 requires VA to consult with the Inspector General of VA to assess the capacity of peer specialists who are women at VA. The assessment will consider geographical distribution of the women peer specialists and women Veterans as well as the proportion of women peer specialists who specialize in mental health/suicide prevention versus non-mental health matters.

BLUF

- VA will complete an assessment on the capacity of peer specialists who are women at VA and develop hiring recommendations.

DEBORAH SAMPSON ACT HIGHLIGHTS:

5301



5301: Expansion of Coverage by Department of Veterans Affairs of Counseling and Treatment for Sexual Trauma

Statutory Requirement

- Section 5301 requires VA to operate a program that provides counseling and appropriate care and services, to include care for physical health conditions, as appropriate, to former members of the Armed Forces who VA determines require such counseling and care and services to treat a condition, which in the judgment of a health care professional employed by the Department, resulted from a physical assault of a sexual nature, battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment which occurred while the former member of the Armed Forces was serving on duty, regardless of duty status or line of duty determination.

BLUF

- VHA has disseminated information to ensure facilities' ability to currently implement this expanded authority and is making changes to processes and IT systems to further facilitate access to care.

DEBORAH SAMPSON ACT HIGHLIGHTS: 5304



Section 5304: Pilot Program On Assisting Veterans Who Experience Intimate Partner Violence Or Sexual Assault

Statutory Requirement

- Section 5304 requires a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of assisting former members of the Armed Forces who have experienced or are experiencing intimate partner violence or sexual assault in accessing VA benefits.

BLUF

- VA will conduct a 2-year pilot project that includes the development of training and materials, oversight, data collection/analysis, and ongoing consultation.

DEBORAH SAMPSON ACT HIGHLIGHTS: 5304



Section 5402: Study On Barriers For Women Veterans To Receipt Of Health Care From The VA

Statutory Requirement

- Section 5402 requires that VA conduct a comprehensive study on the barriers to the provision of VA health care to women Veterans.

BLUF

- VA will contract with a qualified independent entity to conduct the study to include assessing the effects of various factors on women Veterans in the survey, such as: barriers to seeking and providing mental health care, driving distance and transportation to the nearest facility, availability of child care, satisfaction with VA primary care delivery, and other factors.



WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW? TODAY!



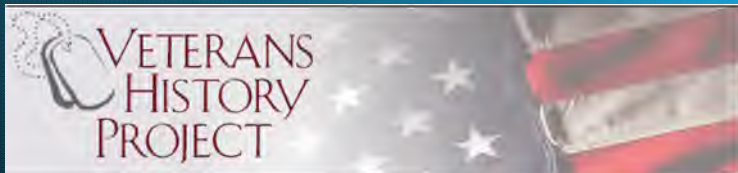
One person CAN make a difference.

Share what you know, then reshare it.
Here are just a few examples of “What You Can Do Now?”

- Bystander Intervention Training
 - http://www.sharedfedtraining.org/2021_VBT/index.html#introduction/welcome
- Women's Health Transition Training
 - <https://www.va.gov/womenvet/whtt/index.asp>
- Million Veterans Program
 - <https://www.research.va.gov/mvp/>
 - MVP Info Center 1-866-441-6075 or email at askmvp@va.gov.



WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW? TODAY!



“What You Can Do Now?” Cont’d

- **NDAAs Study**
 - <https://bit.ly/VETERANEMPLOYMENT>
- **Sister Assister Volunteer Program**
 - Contact your local VAMC Women’s Health Program Manager to apply.
- **Library of Congress Veterans History Project**
 - <https://www.loc.gov/vets/>
- **Military Women’s Memorial**
 - <https://womensmemorial.org/>
- **White Ribbon VA Pledge**
 - <https://www.va.gov/health/harassment-free/>

CLOSING



"I, (state your name), pledge to never commit, excuse or stay silent about sexual harassment, sexual assault or domestic violence against others."



Thank
you

THANK YOU!



CWV Staff

Lourdes Tiglao
Director

Elizabeth Estabrooks
Deputy Director

Shannon Middleton
Advisory Committee Manager

Missina Schallus
Communications Manager

Ana Claudio
Global Outreach Manager

Michelle Terry
Outreach Program Manager

Julia Kelley
Operations/Project Manager

How to Reach Us

BY MAIL

Department of Veterans Affairs
Center for Women Veterans (00W)
810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington, DC 20420

BY PHONE

Office: 202-461-6193
Fax: 202-273-7092

BY COMPUTER

Website: www.va.gov/womenvet
Email Us: 00W@mail.va.gov

Social Media:

@VAWomenVets on Facebook & Twitter
#BringWomenVeteransHome2VA

QUESTIONS





2022 Women's
Military History Month
Proclamation



VHA: YOUR
BENEFITS,
YOUR
THOUGHTS

Cindy Clements-Miller, LCSW

Women Veterans Program Manager

*VA Southern Nevada, Health Care
System (VASNHS)*

VA Health Care Enrollment and Eligibility

CONTACT INFORMATION SOUTHERN NEVADA VAMC



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**
VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System

- VASNHS Main Number, 702-791-9000
- Enrollment/Eligibility, 702-791-9000 ext. 19072
- Acting Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Coordinator, Benjamin Loew, PhD, ABPP, 702-791-9029
- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Coordinator, Felicia Douville, LCSW, 702-791-9062

You can complete VA Form 10-10 EZR (Health Benefits Renewal Form) online at va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction

VA FORM 10-10EZ



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System

	VETERAN	SPOUSE	CHILD 1
1. GROSS ANNUAL INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT (<i>wages, bonuses, tips, etc.</i>) EXCLUDING INCOME FROM YOUR FARM, RANCH, PROPERTY OR BUSINESS	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
2. NET INCOME FROM YOUR FARM, RANCH, PROPERTY OR BUSINESS	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
3. LIST OTHER INCOME AMOUNTS (<i>e.g., Social Security, compensation, pension, interest, dividends</i>) EXCLUDING WELFARE.	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
SECTION VII - PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR DEDUCTIBLE EXPENSES			
1. TOTAL NON-REIMBURSED MEDICAL EXPENSES PAID BY YOU OR YOUR SPOUSE (<i>e.g., payments for doctors, dentists, medications, Medicare, health insurance, hospital and nursing home</i>) VA will calculate a deductible and the net medical expenses you may claim.	\$ <input type="text"/>		
2. AMOUNT YOU PAID LAST CALENDAR YEAR FOR FUNERAL AND BURIAL EXPENSES (INCLUDING PREPAID BURIAL EXPENSES) FOR YOUR DECEASED SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD (<i>Also enter spouse or child's information in Section VI.</i>)	\$ <input type="text"/>		
3. AMOUNT YOU PAID LAST CALENDAR YEAR FOR YOUR COLLEGE OR VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES (<i>e.g., tuition, books, fees, materials</i>) DO NOT LIST YOUR DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES.	\$ <input type="text"/>		

Toni Pegues, MSW, LCSW

Women Veterans Program Manager

VA Salt Lake City, Health Care System



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Salt Lake City Health Care System

Let's Talk Environment of Care at the VA!

VA ENVIRONMENT OF CARE

Three tenets: Privacy, Safety, and Dignity

What

Environment of care encompasses both physical and psychological safety and well-being experienced by Veterans while receiving services within the VA facility.

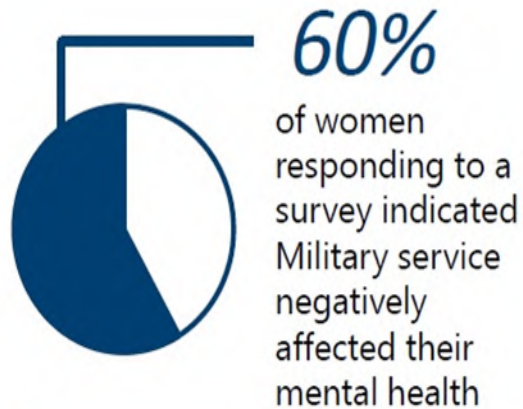
Where

What experience while receiving services within a VA facility.

How

Established environmental standards to ensure Veteran's privacy, safety, and dignity as they engage in services at while receiving services within the VA facility.

Why we are here...



2x higher


The age-adjusted **suicide rate** for women Veterans is almost 2 times higher than the rate for civilian women ages 18 and over



An estimated 1 in 4 female Veterans report experiencing Military Sexual Trauma (MST)

Women report **not feeling comfortable seeking women-specific care** in a male dominated health system, and often underreport health issues

2.4 years



Women Veterans with a psychiatric diagnosis do not connect with VA mental health care until a median of 2.4 years post military service. For men it is 2.1 years

Women Veterans have **higher rates of depression** than non-Veteran women, and **higher rates of pain** and chronic conditions than male Veterans

CONTACT INFORMATION

SALT LAKE VAMC



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**
VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System

- Salt Lake City VAMC Main Number, 801-582-1565
- Enrollment/Eligibility, 801-584-2585
- Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Coordinator: Amber Martinson, PhD, 801-582-1565, ext. 3497
- Acting Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Program Coordinator, Julie Larsen, 801-582-1565, ext. 2492

Shana Schenck, LCSW

*Women Veterans Program Manager
VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System*



Women Veterans Program Managers

CONTACT INFORMATION

RENO VAMC



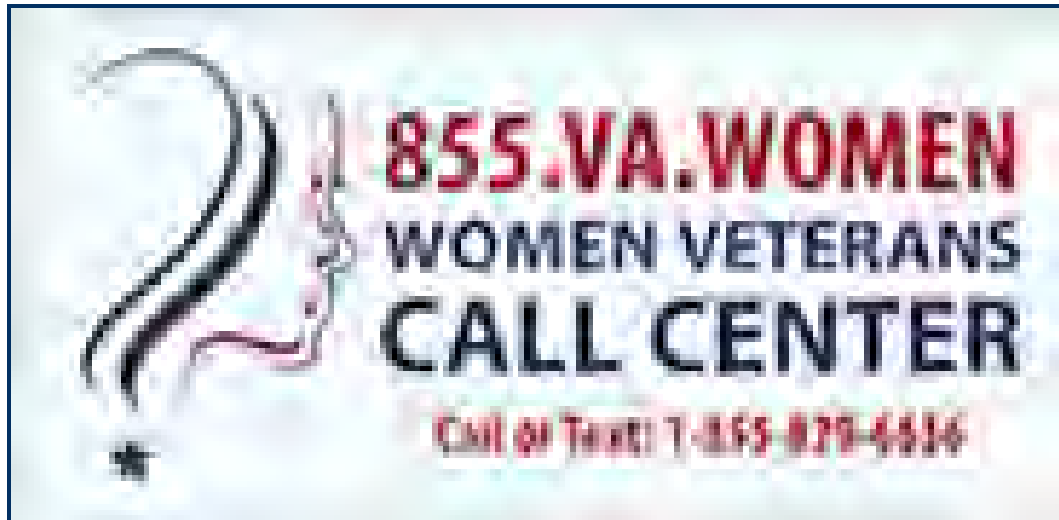
**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**
VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System

- Reno VAMC Main Number, 775-786-7200
- Enrollment/Eligibility, 775-328-1293
- Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Coordinator: Amanda Turner, LCSW, 775-326-2920
- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Assistance Program Coordinator, Catina Campbell, LCSW, 775-686-9310

RESOURCES

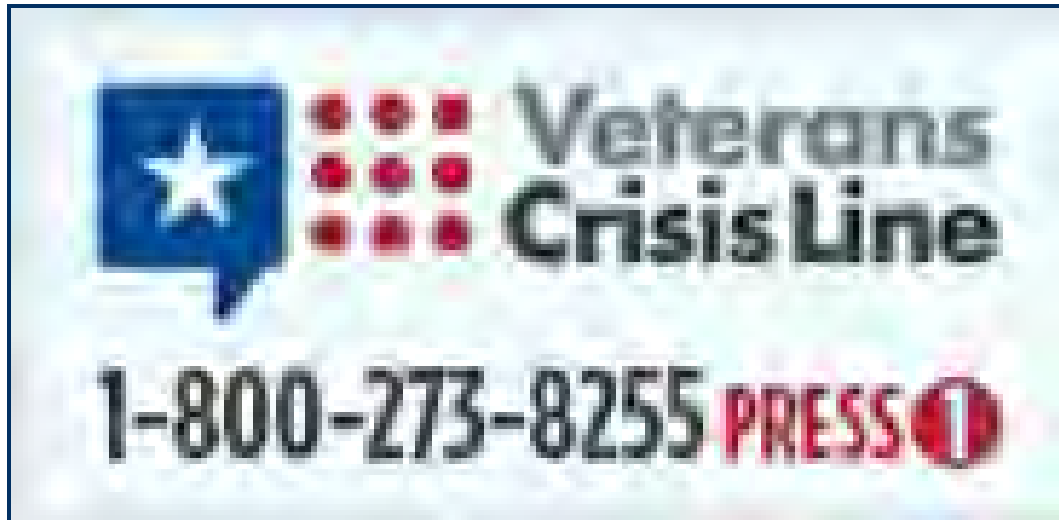


WOMEN VETERANS CALL CENTER



- Call or text, 855-VA-WOMEN (855-829-6636)
- Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. ET, and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. ET, excluding federal holidays.
- www.womenshealth.va.gov

VETERANS CRISIS LINE



- Call, 800-273-8255 and press 1
- Text, 838255
- 24/7 confidential crisis support
- Serves Veterans, service members, National Guard, Reserve members, and those who support them

Break!

Online Attendees please
return by 11:00 a.m.



Northern Nevada Veterans Advocacy & Support Team (VAST)

Lisa Maciel, Supervisor & VSO



Things No-one Wants to Talk About

End of Life, Death of Veteran, and Survivor Benefits



Planning

- Documents
- Benefits
- Process
- Termination of Veterans Compensation (SCD)
- Fiduciary
- Long Term Care Insurance

Benefits

- Individual Unemployability (Veteran only)
- Housing Grants (Veteran only)
- Pension (Veterans/Surviving Spouse)
- Home Loans (Veterans/Surviving Spouse)
- VA Health care (Veterans/Surviving Spouse)
- Enhanced/Special Monthly Compensation (Veterans/Surviving Spouse)
- Life Insurance (Veterans and Family)
- Burial/Plot Allowance
- Dependents Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- Accrued Benefits & Substitution
- Survivors' & Dependents Educational Assistance

RESOURCES





NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES
Serving Nevada's Heroes



<https://veterans.nv.gov/>



Claims
Processing



Education



Employment



Health
Insurance



Housing



Legal Services



Licensure
Program



Social Services



Health/Wellness
Program



State Parks
and
Recreation



Hunting/Fishing
Licenses



Real
Property/Vehicle
Tax Exemption

- **Nevada Department of Veteran Services Office Locations**

- Carson City (775) 300-6796
- Elko (775) 777-1000
- Fallon (775) 428-1177
- Las Vegas (702) 224-6025
- Pahrump (702) 751-6372
- Reno (775) 321-4880
- Reno VAMC (775) 789-6657
- Winnemucca (775) 399-2300

-
- NV State Veterans Home-Sparks (775) 418-5063
 - NV State Veterans Home-Boulder City (702) 332-6716

Break!

Please return by 12:30 p.m.



Erica Rhodes

VEEP

modern
family

BRING
#FUNNY

New Girl



Presented by Reno Tahoe Comedy
Hosted by Drea Myers

Online Attendees Only!

We value your feedback. Please fill out our survey by scanning the QR code.



Breakout!

Please return by 2:55 p.m.



**David J. Drakulich Art
Foundation:**

**For Freedom of
Expression**

Young Artist,
David J. Drakulich

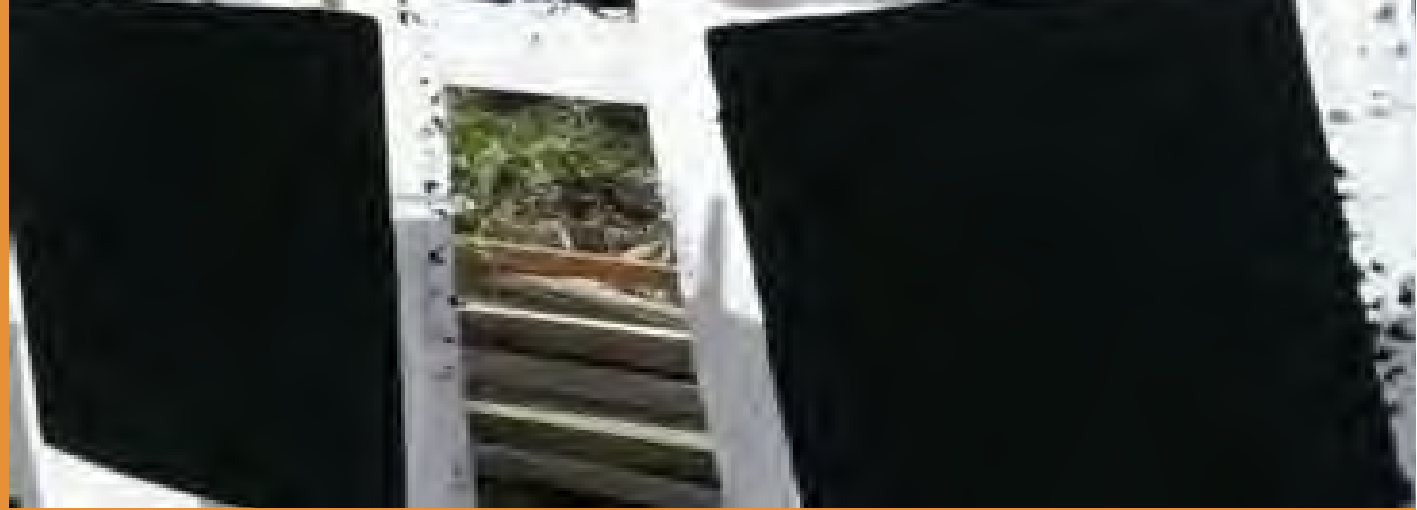


David J. Drakulich Foundation

Veterans Art Project



The Combat Paper Nevada Project



1000 Paper Crane Project

A message of hope, healing and peace... made From Combat Paper



Northern Nevada Veterans Writing Project

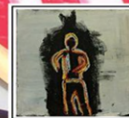
Currently serving VASNHCS and UNR Veterans Resources

Rules:

1. **Show Up**
2. **Make no excuses**
3. **Use constructive, positive language in response to other writers**

Art Heals

**Communities
Families
Bodies
Minds
Souls**



**ART HEALS
WAR WOUNDS**

www.arthealswarwounds.com

THE DAVID J. DRAKULICH FOUNDATION FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Our Mission



ART HEALS WAR WOUNDS

www.arthealswarwounds.com

THE DAVID J. DRAKULICH FOUNDATION FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

connected community through the arts, humanities and recreation.

Closing Remarks

Savannah Aseoche, Women Veterans
Service Officer

775-321-4880
aseoches@veterans.nv.gov

